

## PATENT

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 9 as follows:

--Referring now to the drawing figures, Fig. 1 illustrates an exemplary computer 10, ~~or computer 10~~, that implements various methods 50 (Fig. 5) in accordance with the principles of the present invention. The methods 50 are used to access a protected area 27 (Fig. 2) after the computer 10 has been booted. --

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 13 as follows:

--The computer 10 ~~comprises~~ includes a central processing unit (CPU) 11 that is coupled to a critical nonvolatile storage device 12. the critical nonvolatile storage device 12 may be flash memory, a read only memory (ROM), a programmable read only memory (PROM), an erasable programmable read only memory (EPROM), an electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM), or other device or technology that the CPU 11 can use to execute an initial set of instructions. --

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 3 as follows:

--The dispatch manager determines whether each required BIOS module is in the system memory 13, and if it is not, finds, loads and executes each required BIOS module. The BIOS modules may be located in the critical nonvolatile storage device 12 (flash memory) or in the secondary nonvolatile storage device 20, including any of the critical or secondary nonvolatile storage devices 20 identified above. --

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 17 as follows:

--The BIOS retrieves information from the PARTIES formatted area 27 and uses the retrieved information to configure the system. The information stored in the PARTIES formatted area 27 may include option ROMs, BIOS utilities, or other data required to operate the computer 10. In addition, the BIOS may use the PARTIES formatted area 27 to store variables in the same way that variables are stored in the critical nonvolatile storage device ~~15~~ 12.